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Senator Wagner, who chairs that committee, should be equally alarmed. It is an awfully important function and one which we are relegating to a very low priority within the budget process this year. So I would hope that we would support this tax and put some money into maintaining the facilities that the State of Nebraska has. It is a tremendously expensive proposal to try and make up for lost time when we become negligent in our maintenance of state owned facilities. It's a worthwhile proposal. I hope that you would support it.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel) The Chair recognizes Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, just briefly, there are many residents now in Omaha who do go over to Council Bluffs and purchase cigarettes because they are cheaper there. We are not only losing the tax but we are also losing the sales tax in not patronizing the businesses that are located in Omaha. I oppose the amendment by Senator Vard Johnson. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp. The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall the debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Voting on the motion to cease debate. Have you all voted? The Clerk will record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Debate is ceased and, Senator Johnson, you may close.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, this is going to be a quick close. I did give up smoking two weeks ago and that is what makes me so mean. I have decided that we have heard in the Revenue Committee, incidentally, on several occasions now the bills to increase cigarette tax and I do know the basic facts regarding the cigarette tax and the truth of the matter is that a lot of states have increased the cigarette tax even more than this small increase would be. Michigan, for example, went from eleven cents to twenty-one cents a pack. New Jersey went from nineteen cents to twenty-four cents a pack. Rhode Island went from eighteen cents to twenty-three cents a pack. Washington State went from twenty cents to twenty-three cents a pack. Wisconsin went from twenty cents to twenty-five cents a pack. Eleven states now have a higher tax on cigarettes than does Nebraska. Four states now are the same. This will simply increase our tax two cents to twenty cents a pack which